THE CLAIMS

The claims of the application, as amended, are:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of imprint identification, comprising:
- obtaining, with a predetermined reproduction ratio, an image from an imprint produced by an article; and
- recording the co-ordinates of identification features present in the image;

 characterised by
- calculating the distances between such co-ordinates;
- storing a record of the distances thereby obtained in a database containing a number of similar records similarly obtained from other imprints; and
- comparing the distance information of the stored records to identify records likely to have been derived from the same article.
- 2. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 1, in which the records are retrieved from the database using search parameters which cover a plurality of defined distance bands.
- 3. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 2, in which the records are displayed on separate rows of a table with the distances arranged in columns.

- 4. (Currently Amended) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 3, in which the distances are displayed in <u>ascending or descending</u> numerical order (ascending or descending).
- 5. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 3, in which distances which fall within the search parameters are visually distinguished.
- 6. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 1, in which the database includes downloadable images of the imprints.
- 7. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 1, in which the database contains the co-ordinates of the identification features from which the distance information is derived.
- 8. (Original) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 1, in which the database contains a further group of records containing distance information obtained directly from articles.
 - 9. (New) A method of imprint identification, comprising:
- obtaining, with a predetermined reproduction ratio, an image from an imprint produced by an article; and
- recording the co-ordinates of identification features present in the image; characterised by
- calculating the distances between such co-ordinates;

- storing a record of the distances thereby obtained in a database;
- repeating the steps of obtaining an image from another imprint, recording the coordinates of identification features present in the image, calculating the distances between such co-ordinates and storing a record of the distances thereby obtained so that the database contains stored records from different imprints; and
- comparing the distance information of the stored records to identify records likely to have been derived from the same article.
- 10. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 9, in which the records are retrieved from the database using search parameters which cover a plurality of defined distance bands.
- 11. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 10, in which the records are displayed on separate rows of a table with the distances arranged in columns.
- 12. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 11, in which the distances are displayed in ascending or descending numerical order.
- 13. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 11, in which distances which fall within the search parameters are visually distinguished.
- 14. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 9, in which the database includes downloadable images of the imprints.

- 15. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 9, in which the database contains the co-ordinates of the identification features from which the distance information is derived.
- 16. (New) A method of imprint identification according to Claim 9, in which the database contains a further group of records containing distance information obtained directly from articles.